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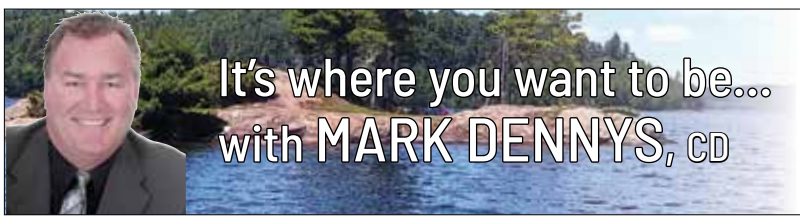

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40 years of McKecks page 5 **Before Bernstein's** page 9 **STR map debate** page 13

Hats off to you
Participants cheer in the Wilberforce Hat Parade on Saturday as a part of their annual Gigantic Penny Raffle. /TIM YANO staff photographer

County faces the heat as wildfires rage on

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While life ticked on this week, a heavy cloud loomed over the County of Haliburton.

Quite literally.

Rolling in on Wednesday, July 15, smoke from northwestern forest fires seeped into the communities, forcing air quality warnings from Lakelands Public Health.

The alerts came on the heels of an extreme heat warning, prompting cooling centres to open up where possible, while temperatures lingered around 34 degrees Celsius.

While the heat and humidity broke Tuesday evening, smoke rolled in through the night, with the community waking up to eerie yellow skies on Wednesday morning.

As of Thursday, July 16, there were over 180 active wildland fires burning in Ontario.

Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) originally noted Haliburton County at a yellow level on Wednesday, but by

see LOCALS page 2

Locals impacted by northern wildfires

from page 1

Thursday morning, the organization had bumped it up to orange.

"During heavy smoke conditions, everyone's health is at risk regardless of their age or health status," said Environment Canada. "Limit time outdoors. Reschedule or cancel outdoor sports, activities and events."

While standard levels of air quality range between one or two, Thursday morning levels were registering between eight and nine on the AQHI across the county.

Concerns with smoke exposure include but are not limited to symptoms such as eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches or a mild cough. More serious, but less common symptoms include wheezing, chest pains or severe cough.

People aged 65 and older, pregnant people, infants and young children, people with an existing illness or chronic health condition, and people who work outdoors are more likely to be impacted by wildfire smoke. It was noted that individuals should avoid strenuous activities outdoors, and seek medical attention if experiencing symptoms.

Haliburton Grassroots Soccer, a league that supports over 200 youth throughout the summer months, made the decision to cancel both the Tuesday sessions, as well as the Thursday night games. For an organization that prides itself on running rain or shine, the unprecedented weather left them in a difficult position.

"As much as I'm gutted to cancel another soccer night, I don't want to put any of our kids in harm's way," said Kathy Judson, the coordinator of the league. "Before 7 a.m. I already had a scratchiness at the back of my throat just being outside for a few minutes, so we can't possibly do any high intensity cardiovascular activities in this."

Judson noted that traditionally, soccer is a mild weather sport, slated for the spring or fall seasons. But with limited local access to large fields, the venue is only available during summer months when school is not in session. "We have such a short window to access the only fields in town and it's so sad when weather or environmental factors cut our time even shorter," said Judson. "Cancelling soccer is not a huge deal if we consider what some of our northern neighbours are dealing with. It's an inconvenience for sure, but things could be way worse."

While the wildfire smoke continued, social media users were taking to their platforms, curious about a fire ban. Currently there is no ban in place, but regulations outline that burning is only permitted before 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m.

"The four fire chiefs of the county are checking conditions daily in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)," said Dan Chumbley, the chief in Dysart. "We don't make the decision lightly, and will implement for a one week minimum if/when we do."

Chumbley shared that overall, he has been impressed with the general public during this dry season, noting that the majority have been well informed, and are taking it upon themselves to be more cautious.

MPP Laurie Scott noted the health concerns associated with the wildfire smoke. "Please don't go outside if you don't have to," she said. "We have a good community here in Haliburton County, remember to check on your loved ones and neighbours."

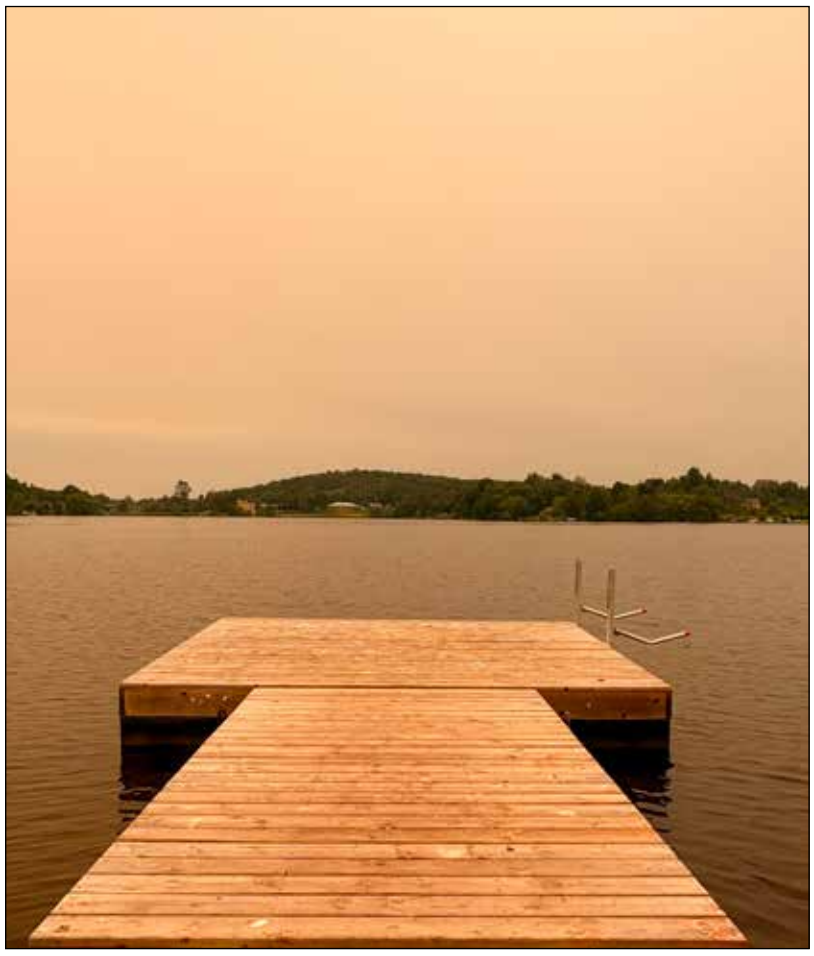
Scott said that she feels the provincial government is doing everything they can to support the firefighting efforts. "Our government is sparing no expense and coordinating with impacted communities to ensure safe evacuation efforts where needed," she said. "We will continue to dedicate all the resources necessary to respond to these fires and to keep people safe."

According to this year's provincial budget, Ontario has spent $271 million on emergency firefighting. That original budgeted amount was $135 million, but went well over the allocated amount due to a difficult fire season last summer.

Under the leadership of Premier Doug Ford, the province's budget for 2026-2027 emergency firefighting has been set for $150 million.

While the fires may seem far away, Carnarvon local Kim Switzer felt them near and dear to her heart.

Switzer's 14-year-old son, Memphis, has been backcountry camping with Keewaydin Camp since early this summer. Now in his fourth season with the canoe tripping camp, Switzer firmly believes in what the camp offers for youth. "It's been such a need for a kid like Memphis," she said during a recent interview. "Being in the outdoors is what grounds us. Being outdoors has become home."



Above, yellow skies on Wednesday morning, before the smoke settled into the land on Thursday, seen to the right. /photos by Emily Stonehouse.
Top right, photographer Dana McMullen snapped a photo of the sun through the yellow haze. /submitted

But nothing could have prepared her for this season.

During a routine multi-day trip, the fires surrounding the sites began to escalate. Switzer received a message from the camp, saying that they were putting an evacuation order in place. The campers were paddling an area around Armstrong and Collins First Nation. "I realized that things were getting very serious," said Switzer. "As a mom, you're feeling helpless. You're trying not to have fear, or picture that worst case scenario in your mind. But I couldn't even look out the window without seeing smoke here, and you can't get away from it."

With the campers encouraged to go screen free for the duration of their experience, Switzer had no direct contact with her son. But she gives major credit to the camp for their professionalism and navigation of the difficult task. "Hats off to them," she said. "I can only imagine what all these staff members are going through. What an amazing team of hardworkers."

While the camp worked diligently to remove the groups from the high risk zones, the first group was taken out by float plane, the second was removed via helicopter, but the last group - the one that Memphis was a part of - needed to take refuge at a small island for a night while they waited for evacuation.

"I didn't sleep at all that night," said Switzer. By the next morning, parents had been notified that plans had changed. "The boys had to get back to the train station, to be dropped off at a small town to meet police, and get on a bus to Sioux Lookout."

Finally, Switzer got notice that Memphis had made the bus. "I was told that the boys are out of harm's way," she said, "and they are en route to safety."

Switzer hopes that this experience doesn't instill fear in the hearts and minds of campers, rather, it teaches them resilience, and gives them confidence for navigating this 'new normal' of climate change. "I hope it gives them experience for the lands up there," she said. "And I really do hope they can look back on this experience, knowing that it was something they overcame as a team, as a family."

At the time of press, the air quality has returned to standard levels, and there is not a full fire ban in place. Burning is only permitted between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., and further questions can be directed to local municipal fire stations.

SIRCH community services

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

5 p.m.

SIRCH will be hosting its AGM at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Avenue, Haliburton. The meeting agenda will include the Reports from Staff, Auditor's Report and Election of Directors. Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact us for more information.

Phone: 705-457-1742

Email: info@sirch.on.ca

Trent students create map of invasive aquatic species

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

There needs to be action taken to cease the spread of invasive species in Haliburton County.

Meagan Shier and Vidhushi Hatwal, students from Trent University, have recently completed a project in Algonquin Highlands doing precisely that.

Over the course of many months, Shier and Hatwal compiled and consolidated existing records of aquatic invasive species, identifying current and emerging risks to local lakes, and created a map to support awareness, monitoring, and prevention efforts.

The project was supported by the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research. Shier attended AH council on Thursday, July 16 to present on the project's findings and future steps.

"One of the concerns that we received from members of the public and from council was the lack of our overall understanding and awareness of the sorts of invasive species that are in our water systems," said Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux. "The intention was to try and create a map of that."

The area of study included cold water lakes such as Oxtongue, Maple, and Boshkung and three connected watersheds of Muskoka, Lake Simcoe, and Gull River.

Past observation records were found using iNaturalist and EDDMapS. The abundance of the invasive species was calculated and mapped using ArcGIS.

Vegetation, fish, and invertebrates were considered during the study. Overall, no prohibited species under Ontario's Invasive Species Act were recorded. Some restricted species indicated were purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, and Chinese mystery snails.

Shier noted that the majority of invasive invertebrates are found in the south end of Algonquin Highlands.

One outcome of the project was the creation of a pamphlet for the public to encourage species reporting and information on how to stop the spreading of aquatic invasive species.

"Algonquin Highlands is a headwater region and that means species introduced here have a very large potential to spread downstream," said Shier.

Hotspots included Boshkung Lake and Beech Lake.

"Prevention and early detection remains the most effective of these management strategies," said Shier. "Controlling established species is often really expensive and difficult."

Shier indicated that the next steps for Algonquin Highlands could include offering public education and outreach, prioritizing early detection at hotspots lakes, and continuing to grow the database from citizen science resources.

Councillor Julia Shortreed encouraged AH council to distribute the brochure to lake associations.

"I think the biggest threat is tourism in this area," said Councillor Sabrina Richards. She noted that many people with boats keep them on the same lake throughout the year. While encouraging tourists to dump and wash their vessels, AH lacks pump stations for them to do so.

Mayor Liz Danielsen says that communication needs to flow between the various lake associations and the municipality. However, she is unsure how to direct this work.

"What this project helps to establish is a baseline," said Dailloux.

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Manager Chris Card said that the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association already has put up signs encouraging people to stop the prevention of aquatic invasive species at all boat launches and landings.

Looking forward, AH council hopes to increase its communications to assist with ceasing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Shier and Hatwal's publication and other U-Links projects can be viewed at database.ulinks.ca.

New high score for Duchene golf tournament

The skies cleared on Friday morning as 180 golfers took to the greens at Blairhampton Golf Course as a part of the annual Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic. The funds raised went directly to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, for their ongoing costs. With a goal of $300,000, the organizers announced that they had far surpassed their goal, with a record $314,592.50 made over the course of the event. "It's an honour and a privilege to have my name on an event like this," said Matt Duchene, a forward for the Dallas Stars hockey team, "This is something I really believe in, and something out community needs, and we couldn't do it without all these amazing volunteers." /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Changing the community, one smile at a time

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Your Hometown Dentist's hygienist Jessica Pratt and executive assistant Anna Lett, are accepting new patients. /IVY KATZ staff

Some know that dental care is an essential part of overall health, more know that dental care is not readily accessible to all Canadians, yet most of us know that waitlists here in Haliburton County are long. Wait no longer: Your Hometown Dentist has arrived.

The new dental office has moved into the former Volunteer Dental Outreach (VDO) location, located beside CanoeFM. The plaque dedicating the space to VDO founder Lisa Kerr remains intentionally in-place.

In addition to this new permanent location, Your Hometown Dentist has been practising volunteer dental outreach to under-served demographics in rural areas for the past year and a half.

"Just over a year ago, we realized that dentistry was not as accessible to everyone," said hygienist Jessica Pratt. "We were treating the Sandy Lake evacuees in Peterborough when we learned how strong the need was."

Your Hometown Dentist is connected with Maple Leaf Dentistry in Peterborough, run by Dr. Cameron Crawford. "Dr. Crawford was recently awarded the 2025 Civic Award in Peterborough," said Paula Crawford, his sister and volunteer mobile outreach coordinator, in a recent interview.

The annual Civic Awards honour residents who have made a meaningful difference in their community.

Dr. Crawford was acknowledged for volunteering over 250 hours in 2025, treating emergencies, and for improving the quality of life and health outcomes for people in the Peterborough community, as shared on the City of Peterborough website.

Dr. Crawford's compassionate care and the deployment and development of the mobile treatment unit during the Sandy Lake evacuation crisis was especially noted.

Having grown up in Peterborough, Dr. Crawford is not a stranger to helping under-served populations and having a community-focused outlook.

Recent Global news coverage of Your Hometown Dentist highlighted how the mobile unit is helping people in remote or unhoused communities, such as the Trinity Church Community Centre in Peterborough.

Many of the First Nations Sandy Lake evacuees had never received dental care in their life, prior to arriving in Peterborough, according to the Global news report. "People feel safer if they are met where they're at if they have not had a chance to experience dental care before or if they have past trauma," said Paula in the report.

"After the Sandy Lake evacuees, we learned there was a great need for dentists in rural areas. We went to the health centre in Curve Lake, and it grew from there," said Paula.

In the last year, they have also visited the Community Integrated Care Hub in Lindsay operated by the John Howard Society, and just last week, Alderville First Nation.

The mobile unit is just one part of The Hometown network, which is aiming to establish an accessible and judgement free environment, promoting health and confidence, said the report.

"Giving people a reason to smile, building that self-esteem and self-worth. Every single piece of self-esteem and confidence works towards building a better future for people," said Cheyenne Buck, of One City Program Coordinator, in the report.

"Dental care should be accessible to everybody," said executive assistant Anna Lett, who sat down with our paper for a chat last week. "We accept all forms of insurance, including the Canadian Dental Care Plan. If people need assistance applying, we help with that as well," she said.

"We just want to help. We want to provide care to those that feel they do not have equal access to care," she added.

Lett shared they even help patients who cannot access insurance. "We don't turn anybody away," she said.

The 739 Mountain Street clinic is a fully functioning dental clinic with all services offered, including cleanings, x-rays, cavity repairs, root canals, and even dentures.

"We have experienced staff capable of advanced treatment," said Paula. "The dental care rooms are spacious and beautiful."

The clinic has two dentists, Dr. Megan Fulford and Dr. Adeel Husain. Dr. Megan, as she is known to her patients, is especially good with children.

If someone needs something more complex, such as dentures, patients are booked in with Dr. Cameron Crawford, in Peterborough without an extended wait. "We set everything up for the patients and they get in very quickly," said Lett.

The clinic's full-time dental hygienist, Jessica Pratt, is currently accepting new patients as well.

"There is no wait-list for a dental cleaning appointment at this time," she confirmed. Deductive reasoning indicates this will change soon; there is a shortage of dental hygienists across Haliburton County, resulting in wait times as long as one year.

Research shows that regular preventative procedures, such as annual cleanings combined with daily brushing and flossing, is the best way to prevent more costly or invasive dental procedures.

Your Hometown Dentist is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday's 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. "There is the potential to be open Saturday's in the future or increasing our hours, depending on community need," shared Lett. They encourage the community to let them know their needs.

Their mobile out-reach clinic correctly operates on weekends, until Thanksgiving. It is challenging to heat the trailer in the winter, explained Paula.

People can visit yourhometowndentist.ca to find out more about their initiatives.

On Saturday July 24, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Your Hometown Dentist will be hosting a barbecue with hot dogs, sausages, and refreshments in the courtyard beside their entrance.

It's a great chance to meet the team, and for the team to connect with the residents of the county. Additional parking is available at the Community Centre across the road. Everyone is invited.

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Forty years of team spoken here

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Past and present staff and colleagues of McKeck's, taken at their 40 year celebration in June. /submitted by Karen Frybort

In the 1970s, Walt McKechnie was primarily found on the ice.

His National Hockey League career spanned between 1963 to 1984, after being drafted sixth overall to the Toronto Maple Leafs.

But when he wasn't scoring goals and lacing skates, he was daydreaming.

About a little watering hole he had named "McKeck's Place".

"On the plane, when we were travelling, and I couldn't sleep, I'd be doodling ideas for a restaurant," he said. "Your friendly neighbourhood pub."

McKechnie originally hails from London, Ontario, and played for various teams in the NHL. But during his off-season, he was coaching hockey in Haliburton. That's how he grew to love the area, and laid down his roots in 1980 in Eagle Lake.

And while his hockey career wound down, the restaurant dream was just getting started. He originally had his eye set on the Kozy Korner, which once sat at the location the Noble Barber now houses, underneath the current McKeck's. In 1985, he had solidified that purchase, and by 1986, his vision of expanding around the location to open a second restaurant - a friendly, neighbourhood pub - was coming to fruition.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," McKechnie mused. "We opened at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 13, and there was a lineup down to the bank to get in."

The July 2, 1986 edition of the *Haliburton Echo* shared the following when the location opened up:

In Haliburton, a' nifty little two-storey-eatery, McKeck's, is now open. Operated by former NHL hockey player Walt McKechnie, the restaurant offers a colourful hockey motif. Photographs, many autographed, line the walls, while pucks sunk into the bar carry the crests of NHL teams. The licenced establishment occupies the building where Larry VanLieshout Realty was located, next to the Kozy Korner Restaurant also owned by McKechnie.

Turns out that a friendly neighbourhood pub was just what the community was looking for. By the early 1990s, McKechnie was seeking staff. Enter: Karen Frybort.

Frybort was a young mother at the time, with a background in serving in fine dining establishments. During a period of transition in her life, she was finding her footing for her next steps. That's when she stumbled upon McKeck's. "I had three boys to support," recalled Frybort, "so it was pretty strong for me to get full time, year-round employment."

She remembers meeting McKechnie for the first time. With her background in the industry, he referred to her as, "a 50 goal-scorer, and I had no idea what that meant," laughed Frybort. "But it meant I was a Gretzky, and years later, I recognized the value of hearing that."

Frybort would go on to quickly learn the sports lingo that frequented the site. With jersey days on wing nights, 'team spoken here' as their slogan, and countless bits of hockey memorabilia, the location became the desired sports bar in the county.

And one day, Frybort was called up to the captain position.

"The former manager came to me, and she said 'you're up'. It was too big for me to wrap my head around, I didn't think I could do it, but Walt said to me, 'you can do this. You're a captain,'" recalled Frybort. "And he told me to make sure I don't run out of wings, and don't run out of beer."

And she captained the team for 26 years. "I loved the opportunity to connect with the staff, the crew," said Frybort. "I felt like I had been a part of the scaffolding to build this business."

A business with a strong foundation. Strong enough to last 40 years, as of June 13, this year.

On June 30, dozens gathered at McKeck's to celebrate the milestone. Servers and staff from the past and the present swapped stories, and reflected on four decades in business.

The location is now owned by Aaron and Melissa Walker. Originally hailing from Toronto, the couple settled in the area in 2006, and became partners in the restaurant in 2011. By 2018, they were the full owners. "We're rooted in Walt's career as a hockey player and his vision and desire to have a sports bar," said Aaron. "It's what resonates with Haliburton."

With just under 30 staff, the business has grown to expand their offerings, including catering a wealth of community events, as well as setting up shop as a nano-brewery on-site. "Business is good," said Aaron, "and there is more business to take on."

The restaurant owner noted that the catering component of the business has doubled compared to this time last year. "It's cyclical with the economy," he said. "And we have a multi-faceted corporation. We're able to pivot for what's needed, and what people are looking for."

From a friendly neighbourhood pub scribbled out as a dream, to a hustling and bustling location that still thrives today, McKeck's has become an institution in the Haliburton Highlands for the past 40 years.

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Yellow

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

GROWING UP, yellow was warm.

The colour of melted butter on sweet corn, fresh daffodils, winning their war against frost.

As I look out the window this week, again, there is yellow.

But it's different. It's not accompanied by the softness that was carried in the previous shades.

It's ominous, foreboding, apocalyptic.

While we scroll our phones, we see why. Northern Ontario, up in flames. Homes lost, lives forever changed. Yellow skies, yellow warnings, yellow air advisories.

As I wandered through our town, on this day filled with yellow, you can feel the energy shift.

Some are out and about, greeting friends and family, imagining the cloud isn't looming over their every breath, their lungs inhaling tiny particles unseen to the naked eye.

If we pretend it's not happening, then it's not.

Others peer out of windows, some wear masks. Warnings flash on our phones for air quality, for heat, for hail, for wind, for lightning.

Ominous, foreboding, apocalyptic.

I once read a quote that said: "Climate change will manifest as a series of disasters viewed through phones with footage that gets closer and closer to where you live until you're the one filming it."

That seems far fetched, I thought.

That seems like fear mongering, I thought.

That seems unrealistic, I thought.

That would never happen here, I thought.

I thought, I thought, I thought.

And this week, I snapped a picture. Yellow skies blanketing our little corner of the world, as I wiped a tear from my reddened eyes, glazed over and raw from seeing through the smoke.

If we pretend it's not happening, then it's not.

But we've all been pretending for far too long. And I understand why we do it. To face the consequences of our own actions is to admit that we destroyed the pathway between present and future.

And it seems menial. To recognize, to acknowledge. What does one person do, while wading the waters of a newly-yellow world. A world that once held sweetness and flowers, that is slowly burning and bruising as our eyes water.

We're scared, we're curious, we're regretful, we're defeated.

But we need to see through the smoke.

Elect people who care. Make changes where you can. Hold others accountable.

And stop pretending.

That climate change is something happening merely to others, through a screen on your phone.

Because it's here, it's happening, it's now.

And I thought we had more time.

I thought.

I thought.

I thought.

Care and Order

Pair, Ponder

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

I WAS listening recently to a press interview with a mayoralty candidate, and marvelling at the mismatch between the questions asked and the answers (if they could be called that) given. It tipped me into thinking about how we can learn the things we need to know about the people for whom we will or will not vote come next October.

And that made me revisit my doctoral research, where the primary challenge was getting relatively inarticulate (or at least unpracticed, unheard) youth to tell me what I needed to know to say something intelligent about the nature and functioning of their world.

It was a humbling and instructive journey, chewing at (I won't say solving) that problem.

Here's what I learned that I think is relevant to our current circumstances, where aspiring politicians are not as articulate as we need them to be to make a well-informed choice about how to exercise our right and duty to vote next October.

First, that there are two languages (or ethical orientations) used to describe human conditions. One is Order and the other is Care. Both are valid. Neither, on its own, is sufficient. A good candidate is one who is bilingual, that is, can speak either language, and also knows which language is appropriate to apply to which situation.

For example, in the interview I was listening to, the reporter asked an Order question – What do you think about strong mayor powers? – and the candidate answered in Care language – I'm not in favour; democracy is important to me. So we learned nothing about what they know or understand about strong mayor powers and only that they believe it to be antithetical in some unarticulated way to whatever they think democracy is.

To back up for just a minute and characterize these two languages: Order is law-ish. It references Roles, Rules, and Reciprocity (more frequently these days called transaction). It asks what's your job, what are the rules as they apply to that job, and how can you manipulate those rules to get the desired outcome. It presumes winners and losers.

Care is psycho-social-ish. It references Inclusiveness, Responsiveness, and Minimizing harm. It asks who all plays a part in this situation, how are their actions responsive to circumstances, and how can the harm of any decision be minimized. It presumes mediation, give and take, negotiation. Win-win as best can be.

Lest you think I'm saying Order is bad and Care is good, not at all. I have often sat on boards or committees where everyone cares passionately about the matter at hand, but the structure and procedures for who does what to get from where we are to where we want to get to is not on the agenda. We wallow for weeks in indecision and ineptitude, everyone pulling valiantly but not in an agreed-upon direction, playing power games, flashing penalty cards. A tower of Babel. I homicidally search for my ice pick.

I have also worked for most of my professional life in environments that are so rigid and regulated that wringing humanity out of the options available is nigh onto impossible. Where if you care about the intent of your job you finagle, you manipulate, you are creatively truthful. You play the system – which is an order orientation.

But here's how bilinguality works: you play the system with the system, not with the people. With the people you are inclusive, responsive and minimize harm, knowing that some harm to some one is inevitable in pretty much every situation. We are always balancing this against that. No free lunches.

So back to mayoralty candidates: what we're looking for bilinguality, someone who can demonstrate that they know the rules, roles and reciprocity of the system within which they will work, and can articulate how they will work that system in a way that is inclusive, responsive and minimizes harm.

Government is, after all, a legislated system, a network of rules and regulations, tiers of organizational authority and accountability, intersecting mandates and methodologies. The Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project is doing excellent work to educate us about these complexities.

But if the people in these elected positions of power do not also care about the impact of their exercise of power, we can only hope they see us, individually, personally, as winners rather than losers, at least some of the time. Rather than holding them accountable (because in the Order framework, that is our role only at election time), we can make nice or make bad, suck up or complain. Neither particularly pleasant nor productive. (We may recognize this reality in our current geopolitical world.).

And expressions of Care need to have the specificity of inclusiveness, responsiveness and minimization of harm. 'I care about Democracy' doesn't cut it. Democracy for whom, in what circumstances, and how are the benefits and cost of a decision to be shared? What does win-win look like in x situation?

Go for it! Assess responses in upcoming conversations as 'care' or 'order', and where you hear one orientation, ask about the other. It'll be humbling and instructive, I promise.

points of view

Double vision

THE NEXT time they are asking for suggestions for the Senior Olympic Games, I am going to suggest an event I call "The One-room Walk-in and Remember."

In this timed event, the senior athlete will be given a task to retrieve something in the next room, and then once the starter pistol is fired, he or she must walk into that room and remember what it was they came in there for, recall where they put it, and retrieve it before they forget why it is they visited the room.

The only issue the event might have is that it might take too long for TV – especially if the person walks into the room, immediately forgets what they came for, gets distracted by a nostalgic thought, and then takes a "short nap."

In any case, I have been training for this event for the last year or so and now – not to brag – I am proficient at it. In fact, as soon as I can trim my nap time down, I may be competitive on a world-class level.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

A good example of my natural abilities (in case any future coach is watching) was illustrated by what happened the other day, when I walked into a place where I knew I was going to need my reading glasses.

When I got there, and came to the place where I needed them, I naturally checked the top of my head first, as that's normally where they are and the last place I look. After feeling the top of my head, I got distracted by a thought and almost fell into looking for a good place for a brief nap. But then I somehow remembered that I had walked into this room and was looking for my reading glasses. (I was on a Canadian record pace at this moment in the event.) So, after looking around, I checked my front left pocket and lo and behold found a pair of reading glasses. Then, as if that were not enough, I remembered that they were what I was looking for and placed them on the top of my head.

My national team hopes were almost assured until I momentarily forgot that I placed them there atop my head. But – and here's the part that speaks of my natural ability and resilience in this event – I checked my right front pocket and found a second set of reading glasses that, for the life of me, I can't remember putting there. Luckily, I then remembered to use them to read the item I brought the reading glasses for – in this case, a small combination lock.

I will admit I was proud of myself for completing the event in under five minutes, which is a fairly good time, when you are at a place that you have not trained at.

After that, I put the glasses away and quickly turned towards the door with a clear mind and sense of purpose. I looked at the door I entered from, and with a determined smile on my face, hustled towards it, getting distracted only twice, before crossing the threshold with outstretched arms held victoriously over my head.

"How's that for memory?" I said to no one in particular.

And then I pulled two pairs of reading glasses off the top of my head …

pic *of the* past

This week's pic of the past takes us back a long, long way. The photo was taken following the opening of the old white bridge over the Drag River on what is now Maple Avenue in Haliburton. The engineers on the job when this bridge was constructed were W. Smith and Frank Barber. The old bridge has since been replaced. From left, William Laking, John Lucas, George Potts, Henry Brohm, Dr. Giles, David Gorrie, William Roberts, David Anderson. On the far right, Russell Reid, Alfred Sewell and Bruce Kellett. /FILE

A welcoming spirit

THERE IS something deeply healing about being welcomed. Not just invited, but truly welcomed. It is that feeling of arriving at someone's home or cottage and sensing that there is nowhere else you need to be and nothing you need to prove. You are simply glad to have arrived, and they are genuinely glad that you came. In our county, welcoming is part of who we are.

Throughout the summer, people open their homes and cottages to family and friends. We welcome visitors to our theatres to enjoy a play, into our shops and libraries, onto our hiking trails, and even into conversations while waiting in line at the grocery store. Hospitality is woven into the rhythm of summer. A warm welcome has a way of helping us feel that we belong.

Green meadow

Tales from the great

Lynda Shadbolt

I have experienced that gift many times already this summer. Last week, my family was welcomed by my brother-in-law Rob and his wife Lynn to spend five days at their cottage. Three families, ten people, gathered together for a week filled with swimming, paddling, campfires, delicious meals, board games, crafts, laughter, and, perhaps my favourite of all, afternoon naps.

I cannot fully express how much their generosity meant to us. Opening your home to others is no small gift. It takes planning, preparation, and a willingness to share your personal space. Yet Rob and Lynn made it seem effortless. They created an atmosphere where everyone felt comfortable, cared for, and completely at ease.

What they truly gave us was something far more precious than a place to sleep. They gave us time. Time to put away our schedules and silence the constant demands of everyday life. Time to linger over morning coffee without watching the clock. Time to sit quietly on the deck listening to the wind in the trees. Time to watch loons swim in the lake. Time to swim and read and just be. It takes time to unwind.

Our bodies and minds cannot shift from busy to peaceful in an instant. When we first arrive we continue moving with the momentum of our busy lives until, slowly, we begin to settle into being present. Day by day, conversations become deeper, laughter comes more easily, and silence becomes comfortable instead of awkward. Nature is such a patient teacher. The lake never hurries. The trees ask nothing of us except that we notice them. The stars appear each evening whether we are busy enough to look up or not. Surrounded by beauty, we remember a slower pace that often gets lost during the rest of the year. The greatest moments were not the planned activities but the unplanned ones - the quiet chats on the dock, reading a book in the hammock, sharing stories around the campfire, or simply sitting beside someone you love without needing to fill the silence.

Those moments become the memories we carry home. As we continue through this beautiful summer season, I hope we remember that welcoming someone is one of the greatest gifts we can offer. Whether it is inviting someone into our home, sharing a meal, offering a chair on the porch, or simply greeting a stranger with kindness, we create places where people can rest, reconnect, and breathe a little more deeply. Sometimes the most generous thing we can give another person is not entertainment or extravagance. It is the simple gift of feeling at home.

Canada Post and the shuttering of community newspapers

PAUL DEEGAN

President and Chief Executive Officer of News Media Canada

The shuttering of Winnipeg's *Community Review* means 200,000 households will no longer get the benefit of a free community newspaper delivered to their door. It also means that more than 800 people who deliver the paper and their families will be affected.

This is an unforced error that never should have happened. How did we get here? The answer is complex.

First, there is a high degree of concentration in the flyer printing market in Canada. Montreal-based TC Transcontinental enjoys the dominant position in the marketplace thanks, in part, to a 2012 Competition Bureau-approved asset swap.

Second, municipal and provincial politicians have passed environmental regulations, however well-intentioned, have unintended consequences. Former Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante passed a municipal bylaw that led to the end of distribution of Publisac (a plastic bag with flyers and a community newspaper). Several provinces, including Manitoba, have imposed extended producer responsibility levies on printed newspapers. Ontario's Premier Doug Ford made the wise decision to exempt newspapers from this kind of stealthy journalism job-killing tax in his province.

Third, Canada Post is the biggest culprit. TC Transcontinental, which had distributed Publisac door-to-door in Quebec, formed a strategic partnership with Canada Post, which as a Crown corporation was not beholden to municipal bylaws. They bypassed Mayor Plante's new regulation by distributing a curated bundle of flyers called Raddar through the national postal service. Unlike Publisac, Raddar did not include a community newspaper. On the sidelines of this saga, news publisher Métro Média and its more than 30 hyperlocal publications - including 17 print newspapers – shut down.

In partnership with Canada Post, TC Transcontinental recently expanded its Raddar offering across Canada. It is understood that Canada Post – which has a mandate to "charge postage rates that are fair and reasonable" – is offering TC Transcontinental rates below what it is offering to community newspapers. To its own benefit, the Crown corporation has effectively shut community newspapers – their private sector rivals – out of flyer distribution, lessening competition substantially in that market.

This is not the first time community newspaper publishers have felt the squeeze of Canada Post in the flyer distribution market. As of January 2024, community newspapers with commercial inserts were no longer exempt from Canada Post's Consumers' Choice program, which allows Canadians to opt out of receiving 'junk mail'. Canada Post made that decision without stakeholder consultation or economic/social impact analysis and failed to recognize that community newspapers – with or without an insert – are not 'junk mail'; they are a social good.

The juxtaposition of the shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review at the same time as the revelation of $30.8 million in bonuses at Canada Post has not been lost on community newspaper publishers across Canada.

What should Ottawa do about it?

First, Joël Lightbound, the Minister responsible for Canada Post, should ensure the Crown corporation is treating community newspapers fairly and offering them comparable pricing to what it offers to TC Transcontinental.

Second, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage should conduct hearings into the role Canada Post can play in the sustainability of community newspapers – ensuring the relationship is one of partnership, rather than predatory and parasitic.

When a community loses a newspaper, like Winnipeg's *Community Review* or Métro Média's publications in Quebec, the information vacuum can lead to people getting their news from less than reliable sources – like AI and social media – which can create division that drives people apart. Without a check on local government, corruption, mismanagement, and wasteful spending often flourish, which can result in higher municipal taxes and borrowing costs.

It was not foreign Big Tech monopolists like Google and Meta that caused Manitoba's largest community newspaper to shutter. It was Canada Post.

And it's not like we weren't warned …

Thirty years ago, in his review of Canada Post's mandate, George Radwanski recommended that postal service get out of delivering unaddressed junk mail (i.e., flyers), concluding that the Crown corporation engaged in inappropriate practices that created unfair competition for private businesses like community newspapers.

As a former *Toronto Star* editor-in-chief, Radwanski knew the news business. He noted that Canada Post was actively siphoning advertising revenue away from the news industry and adroitly cautioned that the state-granted mail delivery monopoly should not be in the business of crippling the financial health of newspapers.

A healthy democracy demands a healthy community news media ecosystem. Let's level the playing field and restore competition in the flyer distribution market before more community newspapers shutter.

ATAC bringing interactive workshops to town

Aging Together As Community and The Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands are excited to invite you to attend our interactive arts workshops, Creative Connections. They will be held on Friday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the West Guilford Recreation Centre. A free lunch is provided, catered by McKecks. All are welcome, 12 years or older.

Our hope is that the workshops will inspire you and offer you the opportunity to watch talented artists in action, try something new and connect with others through the joy of creativity. Attendees can choose, first come, first served, a 50 minute workshop, in the morning and also in the afternoon. Each artist will offer an introduction and demonstration of their specific art and then you will be able to practice, with guidance, the technique using materials that will be provided, at no charge.

The day will begin with our guest speaker, Chris Lynd, sharing her insights on the value that art and the arts bring to our community in bringing people together, providing an active creative outlet, and the positive impact they have on our overall quality of life. We will close with a 'Group Sharing' of your experience of the day.

We are very fortunate to have five artists presenting.

- The Art of Zentangle by Noelia Marziali
- There's no 'Pain' in Pain-ting! by Harvey Walker
- Artist Trading Cards by Chris Lynd
- Theatre: What's My Line? by Ella Leis
- 'Get the Colour: Easy Peasy' by Kathy Bailey

For more detailed information on each workshop please visit our website agingtogether.ca or our Facebook page. Please register by August 7 by using the QR code on our poster, visit our fb page, email agingtogetherhc@gmail.com or call 905-717- 5334.

This event is gratefully funded by The New Horizons Seniors Program and SALC Haliburton County.

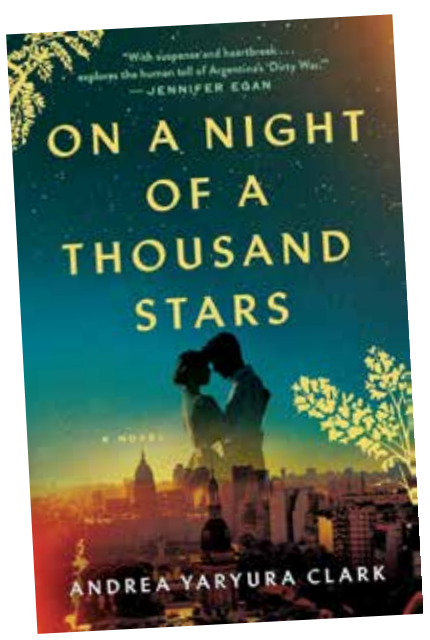
Submitted

Minden Memories

This postcard of Onondaga Camp is from a Souvenir View Folder. Onondaga Camp still carries on the tradition on Middle Bob Lake near Minden.
Addressed to Mrs. Frank Dowson, Port Perry, ON /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week


"With suspense and heartbreak . . . explores the human toll of Argentina's 'Dirty War.'"
— JENNIFER EGAN
ON A NIGHT OF A THOUSAND STARS
A NOVEL
ANDREA YARYURA CLARK

New York, 1998. At her family's annual summer polo match, Paloma begins to question the carefully curated life of her wealthy Argentine family after a mysterious guest unsettles her diplomat father with cryptic remarks about his past.

When the family relocates to Buenos Aires for her father's new diplomatic post, Paloma sets out to uncover the truth about the years before Argentina's military dictatorship. With the help of a university student connected to the children of the disappeared, she uncovers long-buried secrets that force her to question her family, her identity, and everything she thought she knew.

As the past collides with the present, Paloma's search for answers places her in the path of dangers that have lingered for decades.

On a Night of a Thousand Stars by Andrea Yaryura Clark is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Bella, Sam, Allan and Molly Zalkin in 1927 in front of Sam Zalkin Store. /Photos submitted by Stanley Consky, the grandson of Bella and Sam.

Bernstein's Circa 1950.

Before Bernstein's; a prologue

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Many would notice that the former Bernstein's building, now owned by Brandon Nimigon and Megan Zwart of Century 21, has an outlined story of the location displayed in its front windows.

Nimigon purchased the building after it was very briefly on the market in February of this year. With the intentions of gutting the space and reformatting it to accommodate multiple businesses, the opening date is still up in the air.

While the doors are shuttered, the couple shared the story of the iconic destination on a large poster in the window.

"A Highlands Street Landmark since 1923," reads the sign. It goes on to talk about how Bella Bernstein opened the general store, and how she and Ron Grant kept the family tradition alive alongside their two sons, Randy and Marty. Decades later, Marty's daughter, Heidi, became the last in the family to look after Bernstein's before the 3,600 square foot store was sold in 2026.

But as I walked by again and again, I kept coming back to one question: what happened before 1923?

Because like any good story, there has to be a prologue.

Through research with the family, as well as diligent efforts scouring the Haliburton Highlands Digital Archives, I started to piece together the puzzle of the prologue.

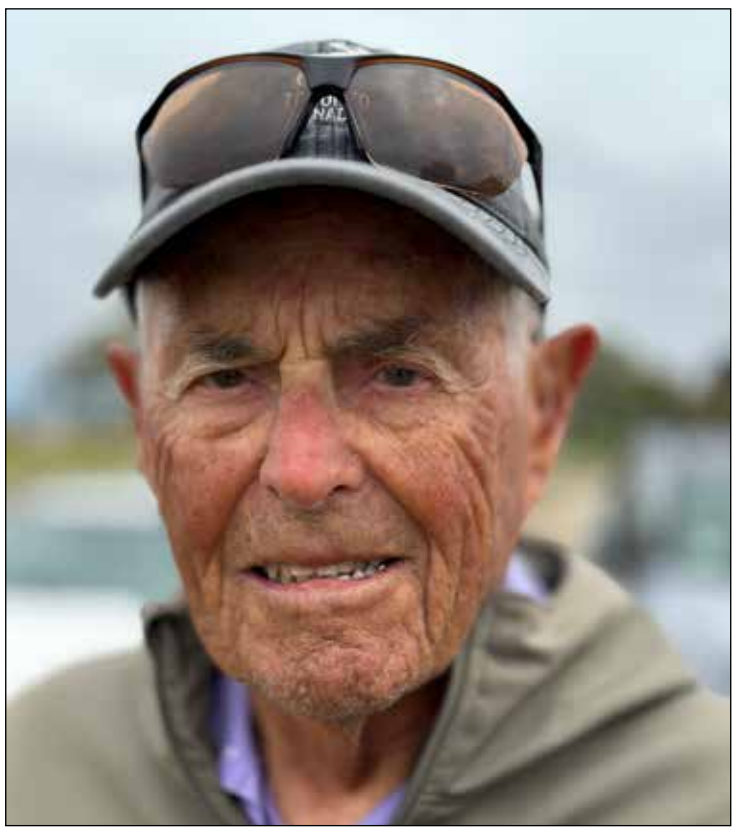
And one of the chapters started in 1920.

That was the year that Bella Fisher married Sam Zalkin. At just 18 and 24 years of age, the young couple moved to the Haliburton Highlands from Toronto, where they opened the S. Zalkin Store, selling dry goods.

In a copy of the *Minden Echo* from August 18, 1922, an ad ran for the store. *Spring Goods Arriving*, opened the ad. *New Line of Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings, Boots and Shoes. Men's Heavy Duck Overalls from $1.49 to $1.98, Men's Khaki Trousers and Shirts at Reduced Prices. Also new supply of Wool Serges, Ginghams, Curtain Materials. Ladies' Hosiery from 25c to $1.25 per pair. Also one team of horses and a driver for sale. Team weighing about 3000, 8 years old. Also harness for team.*

According to family history, the original store was located across the street from the Molou Theatre. By 1923, Sam had built a new store, and moved the business to the location it lived in for decades to come.

Sam Zalkin with a Haliburton Husky Trophy. Sam was a Husky Booster and organized trains to out of town games.



Allan Zalkin in May, 2023. The last remaining member of the original Zalkin family, Allan will be celebrating his 100th birthday in August.

Life at the Zalkin's store carried on with business as usual, with regular ads placed in the community newspaper for upcoming sales and new products, all under the name S. Zalkin. Prior to the big move to the new location in 1923, Sam placed an ad in the Sept. 7, 1923 edition of the *Minden Echo*. *Moving Sale*, it reads, in big, blocky letters. *We are holding a moving sale of Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings, Boots, and Shoes. Also a line of Tennis Shoes. Will be sold at lowest prices. Come in and see us before we move. Also a house for sale or rent.*

But in 1928, tragedy struck. At the age of 32, Sam Zalkin died from infection, leaving behind his wife, Bella, and his two kids, Molly and Allan.

Bella went on to remarry Saul Bernstein the following year, and the S. Zalkin general store was renamed Bernstein's, as it continues to be known today.

Bella and Sam's daughter, Molly, stayed in the community throughout her life. She went on to marry Lou Consky, and the two, Molly and Lou, began the iconic Molou Theatre, which they opened in 1941. For 65 years, the theatre was the venue for thousands of movies, firmly cementing itself as a curator of community memories for generations.

Allan, Molly's brother, was sent to live in Toronto at the age of five. As the last living member of the local Zalkin family, he will be celebrating his hundredth birthday on August 16 this year.

Having called California home since the age of 11, Allan went on to attend University of California, Berkeley, for chemistry, where he earned his PhD. He is noted as one of the top academic researchers in the United States, with hundreds of citations and papers on crystal molecular structures.

I was able to call Allan this past week, ringing through to his home in California. A long way from his original roots, he was born in the family's living quarters above the Zalkin's store in 1926. His dad died when he was just two-years-old. "I don't have any memories of my dad," said Allan, as he looked back on his life. "But I remember my mom. She was resilient. She was a liberated woman, her own boss."

While Bella believed that Allan would get a better education living with his grandparents in Toronto, he returned on the weekends to visit his mom and sister. "I remember the store," he said. "It was like a micro-Walmart. There was everything in that store, from a salt lick, a pound of bacon, to a tuxedo for your wedding."

Allan recalled a kitchen built into the general store, where Bella would serve tea and cakes to those who came in.

While Allan and his sister, Molly, grew up separately, he noted that the siblings became quite close as they grew into adulthood. "Later in life, we would get together, sometimes for a month or more," he recalled. Molly passed away in 2013, at the age of 91.

As the last surviving child of Bella and Sam Zalkin, Allan is the last living link to the founding family, and to the earliest years of the local general store business. His centennial is not only a remarkable personal milestone, but also an opportunity for the community to remember the family whose story has been part of Haliburton's history for more than a century.

And while we are perhaps in the epilogue stage of Bernstein's general store, waiting for a new chapter to start, a new season on the horizon, there's beauty in looking back to the beginning of the book, and recognizing the foundational value, dreams, and strength that stemmed from the very first pages of the story.

Something's brewing in Haliburton

IVY KATZ
Journalist

The world is estimated to consume 2.25 billion cups of a coffee every single day. Now Haliburton Village has one more option for those looking to get that caffeine kick, in the open air and on the go.

"Coffee is the second largest economic activity on the planet earth, just after oil. 80 per cent of the world drinks coffee," said local roaster and coffee entrepreneur, Oliver Zielke of Rebel Elixir.

He has opened up a custom coffee hut beside Master's Books for the season. With a quiet soft-launch under way, business in the first few days since opening has been going well, said the founding owner.

Lila Sweet crafts caffeinated beverages for customers at the new Rebel Elixir location.

Rebel Elixir Coffee's founding owner Oliver Zielke and marketing manager Lila Sweet at the new location beside Master's Book in Haliburton's Village Barn Square. /IVY KATZ staff

The brave new world of coffee

Zielke is reaching a whole new audience, one on foot, ready for a delicious hand-made, freshly roasted cup of java. "I don't mind being a hidden treasure," said the owner.

For those who are residents here, chances are they have already tasted Zielke's coffee beans. No stranger to the local scene, Zielke has been roasting coffee in the Highlands since 2015. Many of the local businesses serve the coffee, think Rhubarb or Juna, as does Wintergreen Maple Products and the Haliburton Legion.

"For me, it's all about health. I'm very into personal health and local food. I'm big on permaculture, I grow most of my own food" said Zielke, on why he started a coffee company and his life philosophy.

"I grew up with perfectionism to a fault. If I get into something, I am very passionate about it." He credits his German upbringing for the"get it done right" attitude that informs not just his business model, but his way of life.

"Thirty years ago, I was in Toronto and I stopped at Merchants of Green Coffee on Broadview and Queen and this guy had green coffee; he said heat it up, the oil is caramelized, and it turns brown. That oil has a shelf life from the roast date. It's very healthy and high in polyphenols and antioxidants," said Zielke on his introduction to the health benefits of coffee. Shortly after, Zielke invested in his first home-roaster.

Zielke started out as a roaster at In Between Cafe, which used to be located on Pine Avenue in Haliburton. However, he soon discovered that roasting is very smokey and loud, "and it doesn't exactly belong in a cafe."

At the time, he was an executive director of Canada's first Internet service provider web.net, which was a not-for-profit, helping many progressive groups at the time set up their first websites, said Zielke.

"The feedback I got from people who had freshly roasted coffee for the first time in their lives was a smile," said Zielke. "They would come into the cafe, have a fresh coffee and just smile!" It was a wow moment for Zielke that has stuck with him to this day.

"You can't beat the taste of fresh coffee. Most people are drinking stale coffee with rancid oils. When coffee is stale, it is not flavourful," he said.

"I was thinking, the biggest health intervention we could have is if everyone started drinking, local, fresh coffee. Since 80 per cent of the world drinks one cup a day, people can have improved immune systems with all these polyphenols," mused Zielke.

Reflecting on starting up Rebel Elixir, Zielke remains inspired and grateful for the amazing support of the Haliburton locals, at the time of start-up 15 years ago, and still to this day.

"I was inspired to start a business in Haliburton. I started roasting in my garage. I did curb-side pick-up to start. People came. The EMS became a client, and it grew from there," recounts Zielke.

For the last five years, Zielke has been roasting his coffee at Killara Station on Gelert Road. "Susan Peel is very community minded," said Zielke on how open and welcoming the Killara owner/operator was to having him roast coffee at her homestead.

What's in a name

During the 18th century, American rebels would sink the British ships. Most, if not all, of these ships were carrying tea, but not all had coffee on board. The rebels preferred coffee as their beverage. As a result, coffee became known as the 'rebel elixir,' explained Zielke on the inspiration behind the name of his company.

Zielke credits a young Sebastian Ragheb, a Haliburton resident, from Zielke's days at the In Between Cafe on Pine Avenue as having come up with the name.

"In Germany it is apparently the law to have the roast date on the coffee," said Zielke. In Haliburton, there are many coffee's on the shelf, mine is the only one with the roast date printed on it."

Zielke's coffee can be found at Foodland or ordered online at RebelElixir.ca, with weekly customer pick-up available at Killara Station.

The Local Coffee Hut in the Village Barn square

"Haliburton has these little pockets of people doing amazing things," said Zielke. For the Coffee Hut, Zielke sourced all local carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. Everything worked out fabulously.

The hut is made with local, sustainable wood. The first cut of cedar logs can be seen as the decorative siding, with the banister made from reclaimed wood. "People just smile when they see it," he said. Solar panels on the roof power the structure.

Zielke credits the design and local timber to Michael Butz's design, and local welder Dusty Hutchings for making the design work on wheels. He commends Village Barn owner, Anthony van Lieshout's community spirit and new sales manager, Lila Sweet's, retail acumen.

Lila Sweet, Elixir Coffee sales manager in their new coffee hut. /submitted

Zielke was looking to take a little bit of a back seat as he reached age 65. He reached out to local coffee enthusiast Sweet to be sales manager.

Now serving

Cold brew, lattes, cappuccinos, espresso straight up, and lemonades are all served at the Local Coffee Hut. Hand-made Italian sodas are coming soon.

All coffee-beverages are made with a traditional hand-lever espresso machine for the best extraction possible. "This is opening up the coffee bean channels at a molecular level for the highest concentration of polyphenols and antioxidants per cup," said Zielke.

Local Italian pastry maker Daniela Pagliaro of OG Cucina supplies fresh and soft Amaretti cookies. Rebel Elixir coffee beans are also available for purchase.

The Local Rebel Elixir Coffee Hut is currently open Friday through Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is potential for hours to expand to weekdays as they feel out the foot-traffic and customer feedback. They will be open until the end of the season, possibly longer.

How to pour yourself an expert cup at home

Zielke explains that one key part of espresso is what's known as pre-infusion. When making coffee in a cone filter, you would slowly pour the hot water over the coffee in even loops, hopefully from a goose-neck kettle. The slow process helps the extraction. Fresh coffee blooms; it bubbles as it releases carbon dioxide. If your coffee is not bubbling, it's not that fresh.

The three rules to a perfectly brewed cup according to Zielke: Recently roasted, fresh coffee. Grind right before brewing. And water temperature should be just shy of boiling.

Recently roasted coffee beans, kept at room temperature prior to brewing is the ideal, especially for those polyphenols. When coffee aroma fills the air, that is another indicator of freshness.

Wondering if freezing or air packing your coffee will keep it fresh? Among coffee connoisseurs, it's not recommended, said Zielke. The fine art of coffee is certainly brewing in Haliburton.

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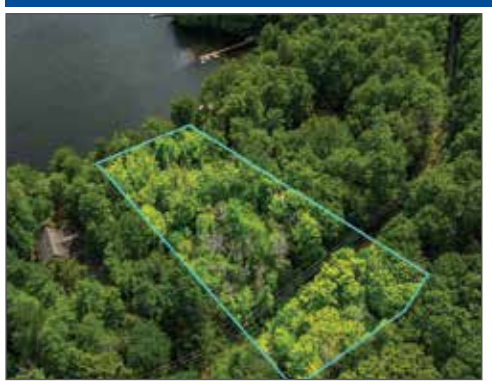

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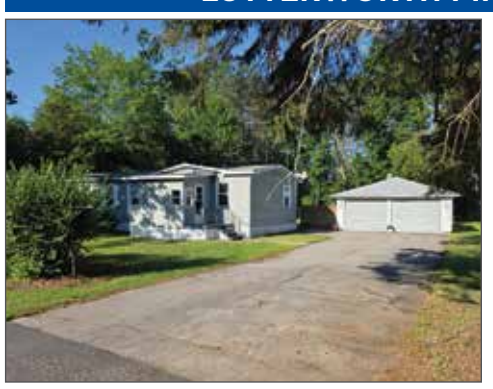

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Cam's Cupboard; a tribute to longtime volunteer

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Community members gathered to celebrate Cam's Cupboard, and the dedication of longtime volunteer, Cam McKenzie. /submitted

The Cardiff Community Food Bank is a hub to the Highlands East area. "It got its start so long ago that it predates written history," said Tina Jackson, the executive director of the Central Food Network (CFN). "And like all of CFN's other programs, it began as the result of the community coming together."

Jackson shared that it was the local health unit, churches, and school representatives who came together, and unanimously agreed that the community needed support with access to food. "And as is so often the case for rural communities, local folks didn't wait for outside help," she said, "they took action."

While the early years were far from easy, the organizers made it work. "The food bank was operating out of the basement of the Catholic church, and volunteers were picking up food donations in Peterborough and slugging every box up and down the stairs," explained Jackson.

After some major water issues in the basement of the church, the food bank went without a brick and mortar location, and nearly lost momentum. With thanks to the Highlands East municipality, a new space was set up at the back of the local post office, and another wave of volunteers forged ahead.

"At some point during this time, a new volunteer became involved who would have a significant impact on the food bank and the Cardiff community," said Jackson. Many would know Cam McKenzie as a municipal councillor, having started his ongoing run in local office in 2014. But another hat he has worn for many years, was the volunteer manager of the Cardiff Food Bank.

"For those of you who have the pleasure of knowing Cam, you know he is a man who is heavily involved in the community and who has personally invested a great deal of time to get done whatever was needed to serve the community," said Jackson. "Everything from delivering food hampers to scouring sales to pinch every penny to stretch the food bank budget."

McKenzie moved to the area in 1969, after completing the Forest Rangers School in Dorset the year prior. He was put on a placement in Bancroft, and has called Highlands East home ever since.

For 37 years, McKenzie worked with the local fire department, and became the fire operations supervisor for the County of Haliburton through the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Upon retirement, McKenzie shifted gears to try to find ways to continue to give back, and the local council seemed like a good start. He's now in his final term with council, retiring from the role at the age of 78.

On top of his career in both fire and municipal government, McKenzie was passionate about the local Cadets program, and volunteered countless hours working alongside the organization.

To celebrate his contributions to the community, it was only fitting to recognize his work. Earlier this month, the Cardiff Food Bank was officially nicknamed "Cam's Cupboard".

"He provided steady leadership, guidance and care to both the program and to the people involved. And that is what stands out for me: how he managed to build relationships with community members who turned to the food bank to local residents who were able to donate," said Jackson. "He treated them all with kindness and no doubt shared a story with them to boot. Cam, that sort of kindness changes lives and leaves a lasting impact."

Due to ongoing health issues, McKenzie made the difficult decision to step down as manager of the Cardiff food site. "But the food bank, our agency and the community are all stronger because of Cam's efforts over the years," said Jackson.

The Wilberforce and Cardiff food banks are steadily in need, with Jackson noting a 75 per cent increase in the number accessing the sites each month over the past five years. As of April of this year, there were 276 individuals from 130 households turning to the food banks in Highlands East.

"It's a sign of the times," said McKenzie, when asked about the importance of the local food banks. "Costs are going up. So volunteering, it was just the right thing to do."

Penny for your thoughts

Organized by the Wilberforce FUNraising Group the annual Gigantic Penny Raffle at the Wilberforce Arena brought out hundreds of people to see the treasures donated by over 150 individuals and businesses across the area on Saturday, July 18. A fan favourite event continues to be the Hat Parade, where kids of all ages don their favourite decorated head ware, and march around the venue. /TIM YANO staff photographer

To opt in or opt out? That is the Highlands East question

IVY KATZ

Journalist

With Highlands East council meeting last Tuesday, the Short Term Rental (STR) licensing agreement amendments agreed upon from the June 23 meeting were discussed at length.

The previously discussed amendments included: removal of selected definitions, inclusion of revised wording to enhance clarity, and the removal of the demerit point system.

The June 2026 Short Term Licensing Report was presented for council's information by short term rental licence clerk, Stacey Brown. The report updates council on monthly operational activity and revenue. There were no questions and the report was accepted as information quickly.

ADUs not permitted to rent on waterfront

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall asked for clarity regarding additional dwelling units (ADUs) that are situated in the water-front area.

CAO Treasurer Brittany McCaw explained that no person shall market, operate, provide, or allow the rental market use of an ADU, that is in addition to the main, primary unit on the property. This means STR license holders cannot rent an ADU separately from the main dwelling; ADUs must be rented together with the primary dwelling as one package.

In addition, ADU's are prohibited from being part of the rental package, nor can they be rented separately, when the main dwelling is on a parcel of land considered to be urban-residential or a water-front property.

High fines for illegal or non-compliant STRs stay

Ryall asked about what offence could entail a first offence fine of $50,000 dollars and $100,000 dollars for a second offence. He found the wording vague for the article within section 13, that states "any person who contravenes any provision of this bylaw or fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to this bylaw on a first offence can be fined $50,000 dollars," because it does not state what the first offence, that warrants such a fine, could be.

Treasurer McCaw indicated that when the bylaw was initially prepared and presented for offences and penalties, it was during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the idea and high thresholds were intended to deter people from doing illegal rentals, she said.

Ryall continued to disagree with the unclear wording, expressing concern that the law sounds as if it is at anyone's discretion to fine someone, yet the law does not state that explicitly.

The deputy mayor continued to take issue with the fact that the bylaw does not clarify what the offence might be. McCaw stated that they will confer with the bylaw officers, but that she believes the penalty will stay as it is. Ryall maintained that a person cannot be prosecuted if they are unaware of what the offence is.

There were many issues brought up with the legal amendments, however the power point revisions were not displayed on the screen as is customary, during this portion of the meeting, making it challenging for viewers to reference the amendments being discussed.

Council received and accepted the STR bylaw revisions report as submitted by the short term rental clerk as information and council reviewed and provided additional comments on the proposed amendments. Council directed staff to bring the finalized version of the bylaw forward for consideration at an unspecified "future meeting" as amended.

The STR Map: Opt in or opt out option a go in HE

In regard to concerns citing privacy from STR license holders, the dashboard map usage report was reviewed.

The municipal webmaster revealed the STR map was the eleventh most visited page during the review period, and has shown consistent user engagement. STR staff recommended maintaining the map and cited its practical value. Staff have used the map to report and identify potential unlicensed STRs to the municipality.

Furthermore, the report found that the STR map displays less information than the publicly available Haliburton Community GIS map. The STR map includes licence number and address. It was reported that the County map allows users to view additional property information, such as roll number, municipal address, civic number, street name, and township name.

It was stated that removing the map would result in Highlands East being the only municipality within the County without a similar map resource. Staff recommended the STR dashboard map remain in place and continue to function as part of the program.

Council asked about the previously discussed opt in or opt out option. Staff said none of the other municipalities in the County have the opt in or opt out option.

Ryall said his opinion is based on what many STR operators have talked to him about. He is against operators not having the choice to "opt in or opt out" of the map option.

After more debate, Brown believed that the map usage should remain consistent across the board, and believes the map is not invasive. She noted that to her recollection, only five or six STR license holders were opposed to it.

Councillor Angela Lewis moved the motion for option three: opt in or opt out of the map, the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryall. Staff received and accepted the STR web page and map usage report as submitted by the clerk as information.

Further to that, council chooses that STR applicants in Highlands East will have the option to opt in or opt out of the use of the dashboard map.

Dog Bylaw amended

The dog bylaw was updated, as per the prior council meeting's recommendations. Amendments included updating kennel licenses, dangerous dog and muzzle orders, administrative penalties, and added some definitions as discussed on June 23.

Councillor Lewis inquired as to the transparency of muzzle orders on dogs, for example: if a dog is in Highlands East from a different jurisdiction, can the municipality see if there is a muzzle order on the animal.

"The problem with muzzle orders is that they are restricted to the area they are issued in," said bylaw enforcement officer, Wayne Galloway. "Unless one goes under the dog owner liability (DOL) act, which is a provincial statute, then it's anywhere in Ontario."

This means if a muzzle order is already in place in another jurisdiction, under the DOL act, the municipality could continue the order when the dog is in Highlands East, and the animal would have to be on a muzzle when it is here.

A provincial order is issued under the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), and can be accessed through the OPP. Municipal orders do not get recorded in the CPIC automatically, explained Galloway.

In order to find out if a dog has a muzzle order, a person would have to phone the municipality the dog is from in order to get that information.

People are encouraged to tune into the Municipality of Highlands East YouTube channel and listen to past meetings. The schedule and detailed agenda for upcoming meetings can be found at highlandseast.civicweb.net or by Googling "Highlands East Council Meetings." People are reminded to contact their municipal office with concerns and to get involved.

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: July 28, 2026
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATION: The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

APPLICANT: Scheffee

LOCATION OF ROAD ALLOWANCE: Civic Address Unassigned
Part of the Road Allowance Between Lots 15 & 16, Concessions 7 & 8, Geographic Township of Guilford, defined as Part 1 on the preliminary plan prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated February 13, 2026.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 21st day of July 2026.

Lana McLeaming
Planning Administrative Clerk

Notice
(Applicant – Chorley / Chorley-Gordon)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Trooper Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the *Municipal Act, S.O. 2001*, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, August 11, 2026**, 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of the Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 31, Concession 3, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan of Survey 19R-11129, made by **IBW Surveyors, completed April 2, 2025**.

The Plan of Survey 19R-11129 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 21st day of July, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Parker Pad & Printing celebrates 80 years

DANIELLE CARNEY
Guest Columnist

Janis Parker, far left, stands with her team at Parker Pad & Printing, located off Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. /DANIELLE CARNEY contributor

Parker Pad & Printing Ltd., a third-generation family-owned business, recently celebrated its 80th anniversary with a record year in sales.

While many other printing companies have merged, downsized, or closed amid the industry's digital transformation, Parker Pad has held its own as a mid-sized Canadian printer. With longstanding clients in the financial sector, the company specializes in digital, offset, finishing, and fulfillment services.

To mark eight decades in business, Parker Pad has donated $80,000 to various charitable organizations supported by its clients, including Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

Since opening its Haliburton location in 2009, the company has been an active community partner, backing local groups, new businesses, and events. For owner Janis Parker, the smaller satellite branch is fundamentally about community. "I was a Ward 4 Representative on Dysart Council at the time and decided it would be a good idea to know what it was like to be a business owner in Haliburton", she explains. The facility serves as a convenient local one-stop shop, giving customers access to services both on-site and through the main Markham operation.

Her own roots in the area run deep. Her parents bought the family cottage on Kennisis Lake 50 years ago when she was 21. She jokingly credits her sales skills for the purchase. After her Georgian Bay summer camp closed, she persuaded her father to buy the Kennisis Lake property instead. "I'm probably pretty good at sales because I looked at a cottage on Kennisis Lake and my mom said 'we're buying this over my dead body Frank'. It took me five months to talk him into it but I finally did" she says with a laugh.

Today Parker lives eight docks away from the cottage, which is now for sale. She moved to Haliburton in 2005 with her husband Ron and lived at the cottage until his passing two years ago. She recently moved to a new lakeside home; her floatplane often marks the spot. An avid golfer, traveller, photographer, and pilot; she balances her many passions with steering the family company.

Three generations in printing

Parker has led the family business for the past 26 years, succeeding her father and grandfather. Under her guidance, annual sales have grown from $3 million at the start of her 10-year buyout, to $20 million this year.

Like most companies, Parker Pad started small. In 1946, Frank Parker Sr. founded the business in the basement of his Toronto home using a Perfected Prouty No. 2035, single foot-treadle-powered manual letterpress. His first client was the Toronto Metropolitan Police. He soon expanded into posters, notices, and small newsletters.

Parker believes her grandfather was drawn to the art of printing. He contributed papers for the Toronto Club of Printing House Craftsmen (a division of the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen, founded in 1919), a professional network focused on technical skills, education, and industry progress. "He must have been interested in the art of printing," she says. "He was more of a businessman than a writer, yet he had an interest in preserving history".

Frank Parker Jr. would continue the IAPHC membership for four decades, serving on its executive board.

The business transitioned suddenly in 1960 when Frank Sr. died at a Detroit printing convention after an altercation that led to a fatal fall, an event the family still considers a homicide. Parker Jr. took over production while his brother Roger handled sales. A decade later, he bought out his brother to become sole owner. Their mother, Vida Parker, managed accounts well into the 1980s.

Though Parker Jr. led the company, athletics were his true passion. An excellent rower on an Olympic-bound team, he trained at Toronto's Balmy Beach Club, he also coached his children's sports teams. Parker recalls his extraordinary dedication as a father. To keep her on her championship softball team while she was at summer camp, he would drive weekly from Scarborough to Midland, meeting her at the marina, taking her to the game, and returning her to camp the same night. "He loved me being in sports and he knew I loved summer camp," she says warmly.

"My dad was just the nicest man and everybody would recommend Frank", she adds. He took time to know about employees personally–asking about their children's soccer games or fishing plans–and often joined them on trips. "There isn't anybody that didn't have a good word to say about my dad".

Over four decades, Parker Jr. built the company into a respected commercial printing business, purchasing the Scarborough Printing Plant in the early 1960s. He emphasized long-term relationships, quality, ethics, and full in-house services. Frank Jr. continued visiting the company regularly after his daughter took over, right until his passing on June 29, 2015.

Mark Wegener, General Manager at Parker Pad for 15 years and with the company for 32, says the team's focus has always been the client. "Everyone takes pride in their work and its quality, getting the job done correctly, on time, and in the best possible way". Wegener notes that both Frank and Janis operated by the same principles, and always put the client first .

Janis Parker takes the helm

In late 2003 the company moved to its current 37,000-square-foot Markham facility, three times the size of the previous plant, under Parker's growing leadership. She brought established clients from a previous sales role and a keen eye for numbers. Her father remained a strong supporter during the buyout. "He was my biggest supporter as the company's sales grew", she says.

Like her father, Parker did not have plans to take on the family business. A York University graduate with a teaching degree and a basketball scholarship, she worked briefly as a supply teacher because full time teaching positions were scarce. "The whole joy about teaching is getting to know the kids and making a difference, if you're supply teaching you just don't get to do that," she explains.

She answered a newspaper ad for a job in printing, started in estimating and production, and moved quickly into sales. "My father's clients also became his friends, and when they had an opportunity to send me work, they often did," she says.

While Parker built her career, her husband Ron cared for their four children at home; an uncommon arrangement at the time that suited their family well. "Apparently it wasn't easy to be my husband because I'm a little outgoing and opinionated, but he was OK with that which made him very special," she says.

Navigating change

Parker has guided the company through digital printing, e-commerce, automation, and rising data security demands. Clients trust Parker Pad for its reputation and because everything is done in-house, minimizing risk. The company holds preferred vendor status with five or six major financial institutions.

She approached digital printing cautiously, concerned about technological errors and high correction costs, and waited until she could do it right. In 2005, a key client's credit card portfolio mailing prompted her to invest in top talent and technology. "I jumped in the deep end … We're the second largest mail dropper in the GTA right now".

Offset lithography still accounts for 50 per cent of volume. "Anything over a 5,000 digital run is still cheaper to run on a litho press and the litho press quality is still so much better", she notes. She also points out the environmental and financial drawbacks of rapidly obsolete digital presses compared to durable traditional equipment.

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic hit the industry hard, but Parker Pad rebounded strongly. Anticipating paper shortages, Parker bought 500 tons and stored it in a rented warehouse. "It was the smartest thing I've ever done", she says. Suppliers trusted her long-term relationships enough to buy it back if needed.

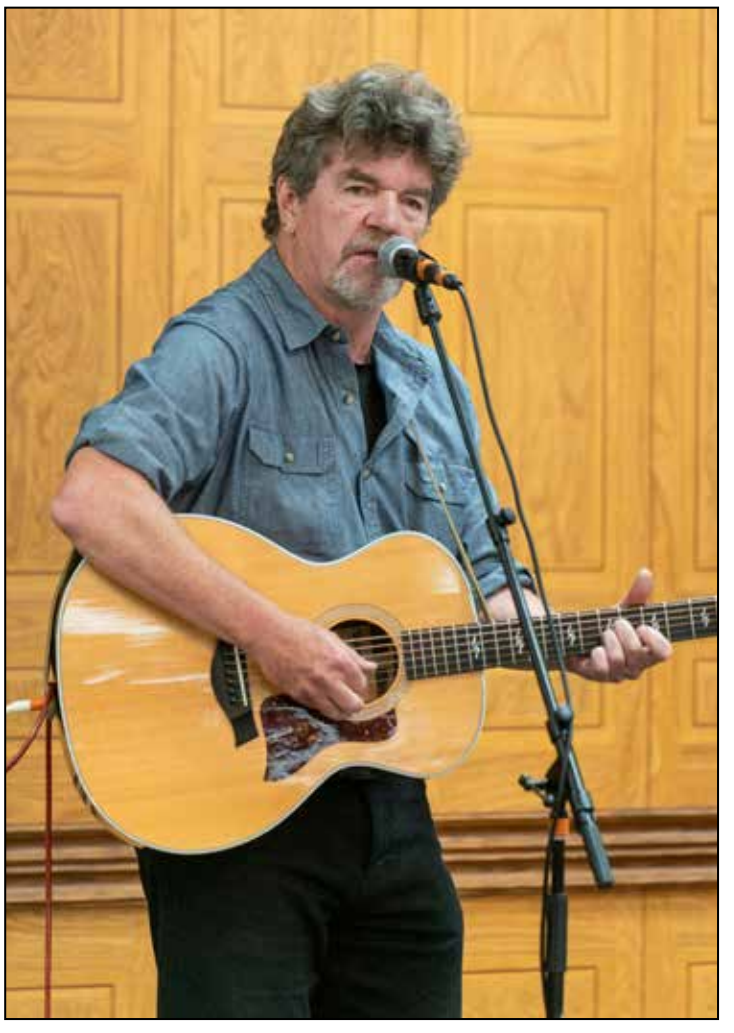
Looking ahead

Parker is thoughtfully considering the company's future, given there isn't a fourth generation interested in taking over the business. "That is exactly what I am trying to decide. Now that I am confident print has a strong future alongside the digital world, I am thoughtfully considering my options: whether to sell the company, merge with the right partner, or continue owning it with the exceptional management team we have in place".

She adds, "This is far more than a business decision. Whatever path I choose must protect the people who have helped build this company, continue to serve our clients with the excellence they have come to expect, and honour the values and legacy my father and grandfather worked so hard to create. That responsibility means everything to me".

Cups for a cause

Fuel for Warmth were able to pivot their plans due to rain and smoke warnings, and offer their Coffee House inside the Haliburton Legion this past Saturday. With all funds going towards financing heating and cooling for locals, the organizers partnered with SIRCH Community Services and a number of local potters and restaurants to share a sweet treat. /TIM YANO staff photographer



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Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Head Lake Park

Haliburton Rotary Club

Join us for free, family-friendly fun in the park

4:00 - 7:30 Free kids' activities, face painting, cotton candy & popcorn
Rotary's famous beef on a bun & hot dogs for purchase
4:00 - 7:00 *Zoo to You* - exciting animal encounters
4:30 Free vanilla ice cream till we run out
6:30 - 8:00 Music in the Park by locally-born sensation **Ryan Van Lee**
8:00 Rotary Car Draw

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Animal Encounters

Ryan Van Lee

Free Activities

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Highlands Opera Studio celebrates 20th anniversary

IVY KATZ

Journalist

Professional opera singer Lauren Margison and Highlands Opera Studio co-artistic director Valerie Kuinka. /IVY KATZ staff

The deeper we look into the entertainment and programs we have in the Highlands, the more undeniable it is that there is something world-class in the events offered to the people of Haliburton County.

Every year for four weeks in August, Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) brings 16 to 20 of the best and brightest young opera professionals to Haliburton County, including singers, pianists, composers, and production personnel, from across Canada and beyond.

People who have been long-time local residents know that Highlands Opera Studio, "presents top level talent and has professional quality entertainment usually only found in the city," as one long-time Haliburton resident told the paper.

This year, the Highlands Opera Studio is celebrating 20 Years. From August 3 to 31, along with 112 other public events featuring the eighteen 2026 HOS professional program participants, the Highlands Opera Community School, will present 'Let's Make Opera ENCORE', one performance of four new short operas created in 2025.

"Each of these four operas (each 20 to 30 minutes long) are based on stories about or are inspired by Haliburton County. These four operas are written by local residents and were brought to life onstage by the local amateur community under the mentorship of HOS opera professionals," said Valerie Kuinka, the co-artistic director of Highlands Opera Studio.

These varied and powerful works were created during last year's Let's Make Opera' new opera creation project, originally fully funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, she added.

"Bringing the entire experience of creating an opera from scratch to local residents was immensely exciting and rewarding for everyone involved," said Kuinka. "The word 'opera' often has people running scared, thinking they have to wear their best clothes or they're not going to like the music. 'Opera' is simply the Italian word for 'work' and is just human stories set to music. Nothing stuffy about it."

Highlands Opera Studio was established in 2007 by Kuinka and Richard Margison, O.C., as a professional training program to help highly qualified emerging professional opera singers from across Canada and internationally make the transition from post-University-level training to the professional world of opera.

Margison is an internationally acclaimed Canadian tenor and Officer of the Order of Canada. Kuinka is a Canadian stage director formerly on staff at the Metropolitan Opera, and professional violist.

Margison, Highlands Opera Studio co-artistic director, will be presenting a Masterclass, which is an open singing lesson, as the first event in this summer's programming, on Tuesday August 4 at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton.

Audience members will have the chance to hear five of this year's cohort of young professional singers sing a song for Margison, and learn what makes good singing great. "It's such a fun and relaxed way to meet some of our singers," said Kuinka.

In addition to teaching voice to program participants, Margison will be stage directing the final opera of the season, Donizetti's hilarious romantic sit-com, *Don Pasquale,* August 27, 29, 30 and 31 (double cast), at the Northern Lights Pavilion in Haliburton.

During the four-week Haliburton residency, eighteen hand-chosen participants from the 2026 competitive national and international auditions, will work seven hours a day, six days a week with an equal number of experienced opera industry mentors.

This, in addition to the 13 public performances including multiple concerts, community outreach events, and six staged operas.

All Canadian talent attend the four-week intensive residency free of charge.

"We also provide the opportunity to make top level video audition recordings for all program participants," said Kuinka. "Having top level videos is imperative in the professional opera world. Video recordings are often the first requirement for applying to international competitions and professional work."

"It's an extremely competitive industry," added Lauren Margison, the Highlands Opera Community School Coordinator and Community School singing teacher (all styles).

"Having the chance to leave the program with new recordings, which are free of charge, in time for the fall audition season is really important and can be costly. It's a real gift." This year, Lauren is the stage director for *Desmond & Lois*, one of the LMO community operas.

Lauren's roots began in jazz and pop before she became involved in opera. A recent graduate of the prestigious Canadian Opera Company Professional Ensemble, and first prize winner in the 2025 Elizabeth Connell International Singing Competition, among multiple other musical accolades, she is now working professionally internationally as a successful opera singer.

Despite this, Lauren keeps her feet firmly on the ground and enjoys sharing her love of music and her singing expertise with Haliburton County, where she grew up, through her role as Highlands Opera Community School Coordinator, including offering pay-what-you-can singing lessons.

"We create a safe environment where there is no tolerance for intolerance," said Lauren, of the openness and acceptance HOS and HOCS has fostered from the very beginning. "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has always been our mandate. We hold space for anyone and everyone. Opera is a fluid and inclusive art form."

This year, Lauren will be a Junior Vocal Coach at the HOS professional training program.

She will also be appearing as the special guest in the title role of Puccini's short powerful opera *Suor Angelica* on August 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

"Despite the highly competitive nature of the industry, 85 per cent of the alumni from the Highlands Opera Studio training program have gone on to actually work in some area of the opera industry," said Kuinka.

"There are those who make it to the rarefied air of the profession as international soloists/principal artists like Wallis Giunta (HOS '08), Miriam Khalil (HOS '09), Ambur Braid (HOS '13), and more recently, Lauren Margison (HOS '16, '19, '22) and Nils Wanderer (HOS '24), to name just a few," said Kuinka.

"There are some who have successful professional careers in other styles of music, like pop sensation Vasil Garvanliev (HOS '08, '09, '10, '11) who was a Eurovision participant and finalist ('19, '20, and '21) and Pasquale D'Alessio (HOS '16) who who has become the artist 'King Braev' with a prolific career in the techo-pop world.

There are many who have made successful careers in professional opera choruses and there are also those who are teaching voice, working in administration, production, and/or marketing within the opera industry," said Kuinka.

The 20th Anniversary Gala Concert: Homecoming! featuring HOS Alums from the past 20 years will be on August 16, 2 p.m., at the Northern Lights Pavilion in Haliburton.

This will be a star-studded retrospective concert featuring a variety of music performed by artists including soprano Lauren Margison, counter-tenor Nils Wanderer, international pop singer, Vasil Garvanliev, and soprano Krista da Silva (HOS '07), among others.

Celebrity guest host of the event is Canadian Olympic medalist Kurt Browning.

The Highlands Opera Studio and Highlands Opera Community School are both produced by Canadian registered charity, Highlands Opera Theatre, which relies on financial support from grants and private donors.

"We encourage people to go to the Highlands Opera Studio website to learn more about our activities for both young Canadian professionals and the local community of Haliburton County through the year round Community School. We invite all to get involved. There's truly something for everyone," said Kuinka.

To mark the special 20th anniversary, Highlands Opera Studio is launching the inaugural annual Vanda Treiser Opera Competition with $12,500 of prizes to be awarded to top Canadian Operatic talent striving to build a career in Canada and abroad.

"We are absolutely thrilled to honour Vanda Treiser, cherished friend and long-standing member of the Highlands Opera Theatre Board of Directors, in this meaningful way on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary Year of Highlands Opera Studio," said Kuinka in a press release.

"Mme Treiser has been an ardent supporter of the Highlands Opera Studio for many years," said Kuinka. "Annually, her sustaining financial support has culminated in the four weeks of professional training and career development offered annually in the summer by Highlands Opera Studio. We are deeply grateful for this remarkable visionary woman."

Visit HighlandsOperaStudio.com for scheduling, full casting information, and more.

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The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires Multiple Citizen Appointments to the Joint Accessibility Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. It is County Council's desire for appointments to the various boards and committees to be reflective of the demographic and geographical makeup of the County of Haliburton. Currently the Committee is comprised of one elected County Council representative from each of the member municipalities. Qualified applicants to the Joint Accessibility Committee will be:
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Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and application form. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on August 7, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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2026

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Julian Nicholas Havelock Case

Entered into rest peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay, Ontario, on Friday, July 10, 2026, in his 85th year.

Beloved husband and steadfast companion of Liz Lilley-Case. Cherished father of Kerensa Case of Wiltshire, England, and forever loved by the memory of his daughter, Halcyon Down, who predeceased him in 2014. Proud grandfather of Sequoia and Amitola Down, who were a treasured part of his life. Nick will be remembered by his son in law Tim Down.

Nick is survived by his brother, James Perry Case, and was predeceased by his brothers, Chris and Adrian Case. He will also be fondly remembered by Jacquie Case, mother of Kerensa and Halcyon.

He will be deeply missed by his extended family: Robert Lilley and his wife Lisa, Katherine Lilley and her husband Dave Retzleff, John Lilley and his wife Heather, Andrew Lilley, and his grandchildren; Jade, Ava, Maya and Michael.

Family and friends were invited to the Jardine Funeral Home, Cremation & Tribute Centre, 8 Princes' Street West, Fenelon Falls, on Saturday, July 18, 2026. Visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the funeral service in the chapel at 2:00 p.m. A reception followed, where stories and memories were shared in celebration of Nick's life.

Nick had a rare gift for finding wonder in the ordinary and weaving it into stories that could make you laugh, think, and see the world a little differently. So rich in life experiences that he loved to share with his delightful dry English wit and twinkle in his eye. His gentle spirit found its home among the trees, the birds, beside the water, and in the quiet company of nature. His 45-year career in The British Merchant Marine took him around world. As a Reiki Master, he believed in the healing power of kindness, the strength of compassion, and the importance of living with honesty and grace. His generous heart, quiet wisdom, and unwavering integrity touched many lives, leaving an imprint that time cannot erase.

Though his journey has come to an end, his stories will continue to be told, his laughter remembered, and his love for nature carried forward by those who knew and loved him.

A life well lived. A life deeply loved. A legacy that lives on.

If desired, memorial donations to the Nature Conservancy of Canada would be appreciated by the family as a meaningful way to honour Nick's enduring love of the natural world and continue his legacy of caring.

In Loving Memory of

Mary Stiver (nee Anderson)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Stiver, peacefully July 15 in her 93rd year at Haliburton Extendicare.

Born Dec 18, 1933 Mary spent her life as a hardworking, compassionate and caring woman. She was well known in the Halls Lake Community where she became a beloved figure and too many "a true legend." Her strong work ethic, generous spirit and willingness to help others left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her. Mary had a special love of all animals and found joy in caring for them throughout her life. Many people will have fond memories, of visiting with the raccoons at the store.

Mary's story began, as an infant in Longford Mills, Ontario. As a toddler, the family moved to Milliken where they spend many years, growing up in the depression. Life was a struggle in their small home, but adventures with her sisters Alice and Flo made hard times bearable. Years later as a young adult, she discovered her true love,.. Haliburton County, while visiting Big Hawk Lake. She soon settled to Halls Lake, building a home, a store, and business with Gord Stiver on Little Hawk Lake Road.

Life Happens.....Mary found herself in Oshawa, a single mom with three kids. ... *Life Happens*... along came "Bake" Now in her forties, They relocated back to her previous home at Halls Lake. This brought about a new set of skills. Besides running the store, Mary got her AZ license, drove dump truck, bulldozer, backhoe, installing septic systems, and driveways, plowing snow, delivering firewood, and renting fish huts; working with Bake sun up to dusk.

Their home was an open door gathering place for workers, cottagers and family on their way north on Fridays, and anyone with a problem, breakdown or break-up showed up and was made welcome.
Besides work, Mary and Bake did enjoy life. Their camper van got lots of miles, travelling all over Ontario, to the east coast and back; often fishing along the way. Mary and her extended family saw much of Canada, the US and Scotland. Those trips created countless cherished memories and reflected her adventurous spirit and appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

In her late 60's Bake passed away, and his *"northern rose"* was now a widow. Her adventurous spirit, kept her going. She retired from the hard working and shifted her energy to helping in the community. Her support for the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Fighters was unwavering. Any event, fishing derby, Christmas party, fund raising , she was there. One of her highlights, was winning the 4 wheeler at the Fire fighters Poker run fund raiser.
Many community members were supported by Mary. A friendly visitor, driving countless people to appointments or events, or just being there when they needed someone or support.
Mary did not slow down. In her 80's she applied to the Stanhope Museum Council and served as a curator for several seasons. This brought new skill sets. Mary learned electronics! She took a course in technology, and became active on social media. Loving to find likeminded people with a love of animals she could "chat" with.
Sadly, dementia came along. In her mid 80's Mary life began to change again. She moved into Haliburton Extendicare, where she developed many new friendships, among the residents, like Don and Dianne and the staff.

Though she will be deeply missed, those who knew her will forever carry her spirit in their hearts.

Mary is survived by her children, Christine (Claudio) Kathy, and Danny. Very proud grandmother to Bradley (Wendy), Amanda, Katie, Becky (Terrell), Kimberly (Nic), Kevin (Ashlee) and Alyssa,
Great Grandmother, each of whom, brought her so much pride and happiness, Emma, Jace, Charlotte, Norah, Jaylyn, Camren, arriving soon, Amira, Loic, Brantley, and one more little one coming in January.
Mary was a big part of the Baker family including Bake's four children, Marie, Walter, Paul and Ritchie and their families, Mary was very fond of Don Stiver and his wife Pat. Mary is also survived by many nieces and nephews, who have many wonderful memories of times spent with her. She was predeceased by her twin sister Alice (Stu), sister Florence (Frank) niece Marylou, and great nephews Dylan and Jarrid.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday Aug 15 at the Stanhope Community Centre. Open house, from 1pm to 4 pm with open mike at 2 pm. Please come and share some of the great stories with friends and family.

The family would like to thank the many community members for the kinds words, supports, hugs and prayers during this time. A very special thank you to the staff at Haliburton Extendicare for their wonderful care of Mary.
Continuing on with Mary's love of animals, donations to the "Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association would be appreciated. And a thanks to Jenn, for bringing Mary so much joy when the horses came to visit at Extendicare.

Mary's humour.... she would check the "obits" to see if she was there.... Mary you're finally here.

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CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

The family of the late Bill Picard wish to express their sincere gratitude to all for your love and prayers during our time of sadness. Thank you to those who came to the visitation; for the supportive words during the memorial service including Paul Graham, Steve Archibald and Doug Mitchell; for the many cards, flowers, donations, texts and phone calls. A special thank you to the nurses and staff at HHHS, Dr. Bottum, Dr. Lupu and also Dr. Butera, for their wonderful care; the staff and friends at The Gardens of Haliburton for their love; and last but not least to Dwaine Lloyd and his staff at Haliburton Community Funeral Home. Our family most certainly felt the love that is enjoyed, living in this amazing community. Our dear Husband, Dad, Grampa Bill will be missed very much and we thank God that he lived a good, full, long life with us.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of
Donald J. Maulson,
1943 - 2021

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Pat

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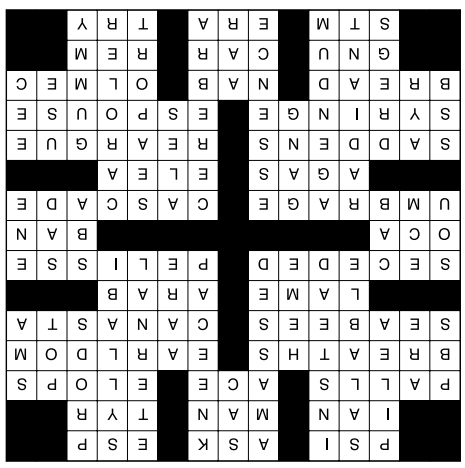

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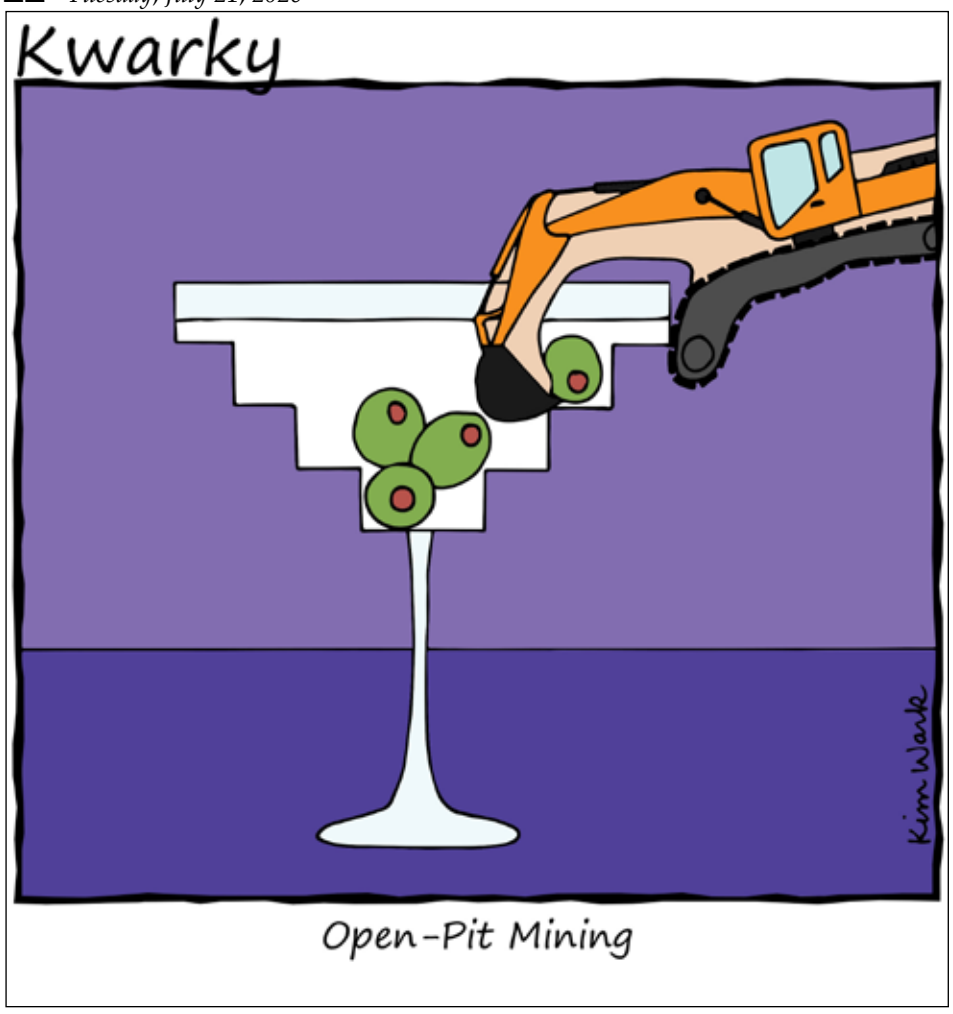

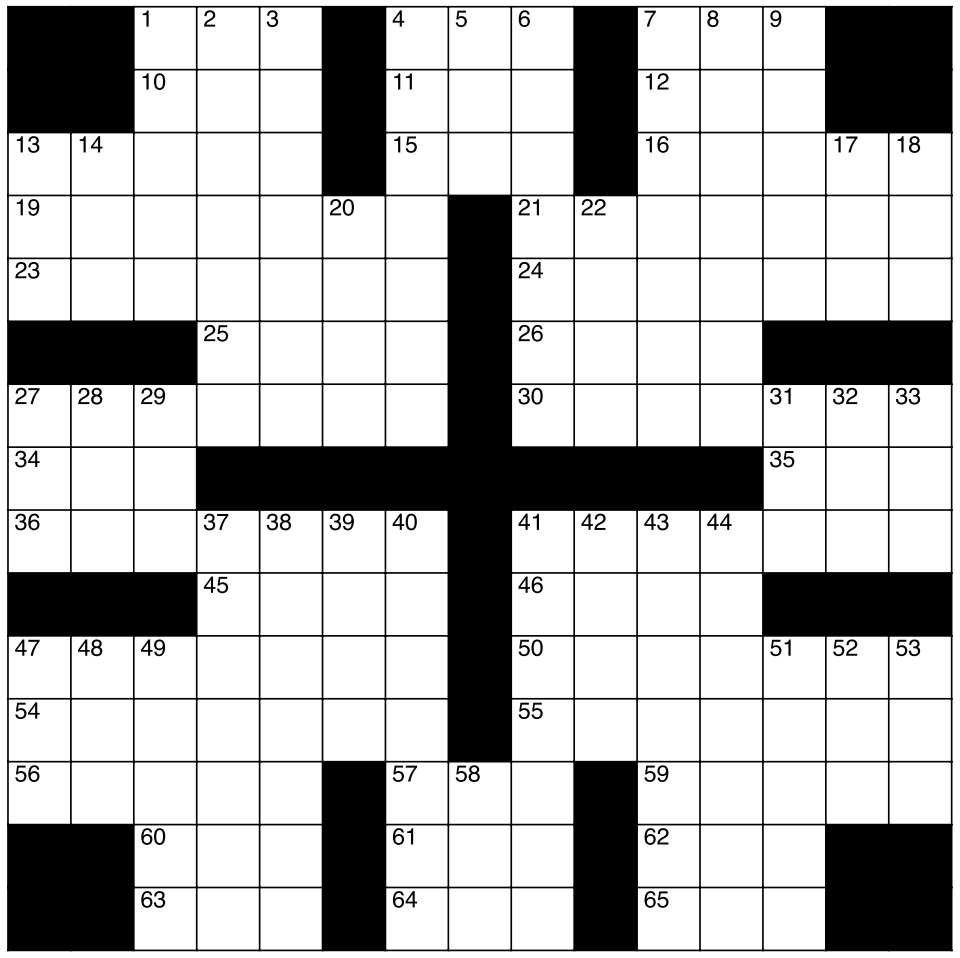

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure measurement
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
13. Cloths spread over a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. EarlÕs jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Withdrew from a union
30. Woman's cloak
34. Spanish river
35. Prohibit
36. Something you can take
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
47. Makes somber
50. Discuss again
54. A tool to inject
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. High resolution microscope
64. Pitching statistic
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Marketable
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish hip-hop trio
7. Ageless
8. Course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV channel
14. They __
17. Cooking material
18. Investment account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Small coin (French)
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Item to be addressed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place for ships
44. One who sings holiday songs
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Scottish town
49. The most worthless parts
51. Sticky
52. Put to work
53. Precursor to the EU
58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

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					7			5
					3		8	
1	6				4		9	
	3			7	6			
7		1				5		2
				5				7
6				3			1	
					9			
		8		2		9		

Level: Intermediate

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Committee prepares for amalgamation of three school boards

by Misty Bennett

The Local Education Improvement Committee (LEIC) has begun to hold a series of public meetings.

The LEIC is a committee created to oversee the amalgamation of the three existing school boards in Haliburton County, Muskoka and Victoria County. The LEIC is comprised of equal representation from the three boards and has been preparing the groundwork for a shared vision and smooth transition to the new District School Board. This team, composed of Chair Cheryl Murdoch (Haliburton), Vice-Chair Russ Spalding (Muskoka) and Co-ordinator Dianne Dalton (Victoria), will take suggestions from the three subcommittees (Human Resources, Business and Education Services) and make recommendations to the larger EIC (Education Improvement Commission).

The LEIC does not have a great deal of power to ensure its suggestions are implemented. However it is expected the group's recommendatios will be noted and duly considered. A great deal of research has been undertaken for this task, says Cheryl Murdoch.

"The three boards have varying programs," she says. "Some schools offer adult education, we don't; we have a musical education program the other boards don't."

These are only two examples of issues to be resolved by the Education Services subcommittee.

The smaller sub-committees have been reporting to the LEIC every two weeks since April 22, and this schedule is expected to continue until the end of November, in preparation for the amalgamation of the school boards on January 1, 1998.

The location of the board office has yet to be decided, however it is known that of the nine trustees on the new board of education, Haliburton County will be represented by a single elected official. Victoria, having the most substantial population will have five members and Muskoka, three. Murdoch believes that there may be a possibility of increasing the number of board members to 10 in order to accommodate a representative of the native population. The Muskoka Board of Education currently has a seat set aside for a First Nations representative.

The LEIC held its first public meeting on July 15 at I.E. Weldon Secondary School in Lindsay. A question and answer period was held to allow the public to voice the concerns and ask questions. These

(more on page 2)

Local donors could help blood shortage

It is time for all good men and women to step forward, roll up their sleeves and lie down.

The call has once again gone out for individuals to attend the summer blood donor clinic. The clinic is scheduled for this Tuesday, July 22, at the Haliburton Legion.

According to a Red Cross spokesman, summer is a difficult time for blood collection. With many people away on holidays, they often miss their scheduled clinic in their home town. As well, the summer activities bring a higher incidence of accidents and injuries, increasing the need for a standby blood supply.

The Red Cross is hoping that healthy individuals between the ages of 17 and 70 will help the organizers reach the target of 220 donations.

The clinic is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

(And, if you can't make the Haliburton Blood Donor Clinic, another is scheduled for Thursday, July 24 in Lindsay at the Victoria Park Armouries, 210 Kent Street, from noon to 7:30 p.m.)

16 pound holiday treat for Alberta visitor

by Jerry Grozelle

John Davis drove for 47 hours from his home in Edmonton to spend a few days with his family (parents Pat and Lois Davis of Newcastle, Ontario and sister Andrea and her husband Steve Jowett and their daughters Christina and Kathleen of Cambridge, Ontario) at Cherokee Resort on Hall's Lake. He arrived Tuesday morning, July 15.

The next morning, John and his dad decided to do some fishing. Aside from spending some precious time with his family, catching a lunker lake trout turned out to be an added bonus after the gruelling drive.

The day didn't start well for the Alberta angler. He spent the first part of the voyage repairing his fishing reel and removing several yards of the steel line. The rod and reel John used was one that his dad had won for catching the biggest lake trout from Twelve Mile Lake about 10 years ago.

After getting his equipment problems sorted out, John Davis tied a small silver and gold Williams Wobbler onto the end of the steel line and let it out until he could feel the bait hitting bottom. He reeled in several feet to bring it up off bottom and gave the reel a few more cranks when he felt it hit bottom a second time. He estimates he had about 900 feet of line out when the fish struck.

"It was only about a minute later when the fish hit," Davis said.

That was about 8:30 a.m.

It took about 15 minutes to reel in the big fish.

Davis' fish scale hovered at the 16 pound mark as he hoisted the Halls Lake lunker.

But the scale was only marked in pounds, so he decided to take the trout to Four Seasons Food Mart in Carnarvon, where owner Fred Chapple weighed the fish on an official scale. The verdict : 15.84 pounds (7.2 kilograms).

John Davis of Alberta with the tropny lunker he caught last week in Halls Lake.

The fish measured 34 inches (86.36 centimetres) in length and 20.5 inches (52.07 cm) in girth.

John's brother Jim of Calgary is an avid fisherman and John says he has all the fishing bells and whistles. John's laker has been taken to a local taxidermist and the mount will be a reminder to his brother that you don't need downriggers and depth finders to catch the big ones.

John has only fished Hall's Lake once before. That was three years ago on another family get-together.

"All we caught then was a few small bass," he recalled.

Jon Hill of Minden Live Bait and Tackle said that it is unusual to catch such a big lake trout at this time of year.

"Most of the big fish are caught through the ice," he said.

The biggest lake trout that Hill can remember being caught in the area recently is a 23 pounder caught from Haliburton Lake by Lance Easton this spring right after the ice went out of the lake.

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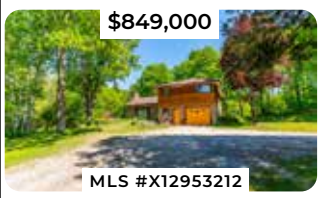
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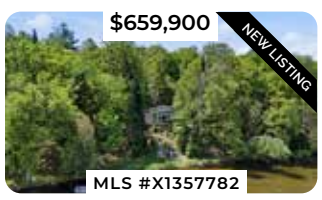
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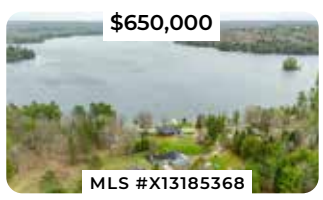
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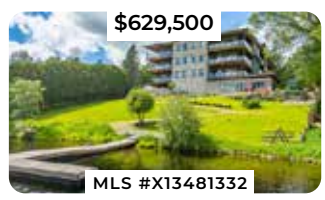
$629,500
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BED 2 BATH 2

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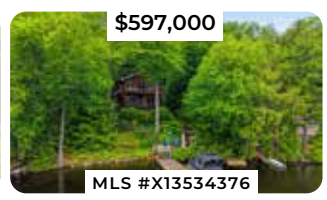
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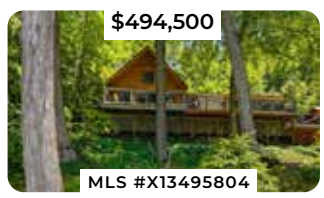
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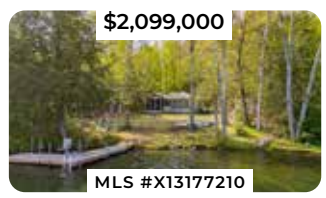
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